

Office of Current Production and Analytic Support**CIA Operations Center****News Bulletin** : THE WASHINGTON POST, PAGE E10

6 SEPTEMBER 1985

ITEM No. 1

STAT

Soviets Take Lead in Space Lasers

The superpowers' contest for military supremacy in space continues, and the Soviets appear to be substantially ahead in the latest round: laser weapons.

CIA sources have told us they've discovered a major laser test center at Krasnoarmeysk, 30 miles northeast of Moscow. Even more alarming, the facility is believed to be actually producing laser weapons.

Evidence of the priority the Soviets place on the Krasnoarmeysk weapons plant, the CIA has determined, is that it is operated by an integrated design bureau.

Ordinarily the Soviets borrow the capitalist technique of competing design bureaus for everything from tanks to ballistic missiles. They have found that the competition eventually produces better weapons—but it's too time-consuming for a top-priority program.

"The Soviets have had a research program under way since 1970 aimed at developing lasers with weapons applications," notes a top-secret CIA report.

The program includes at least a half-dozen major research and development facilities and test ranges. More than 10,000 scientists and engineers are involved.

By way of comparison, the CIA estimates that a similar U.S. laser weapons program would cost about \$1 billion a year. But the United States only began playing catch-up during the Reagan administration, with about \$800 million earmarked for laser weapons research in 1986.

One of the unique features of the Soviet laser

program is the development of a rocket-driven magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) generator, which produces 15 megawatts of short-term electricity as a firepower source for the lasers.

A secret State Department report on the MHD explains that "it generates current by passing a conducting fluid through a magnetic field." The report adds this disturbing comment:

"Their [the Soviets'] MHD work is the largest in the world and continues to grow. Power outputs already achieved exceed those in the West several fold, and both rocket power and liquid metal system inputs could have potential for military programs in high-energy lasers, charged particle beams and space-borne laser power supplies. MHD is a technology area where the Soviets clearly lead the U.S. in demonstrated capability."

In fact, there is no counterpart device in the West.

Both the CIA and the Pentagon believe that the Soviets already have ground-based lasers that could interfere with U.S. satellites, and they estimate that by the late 1980s the Russians could have at least prototype space-based laser weapons that could incapacitate U.S. satellites.

The actual deployment of space-based lasers for antisatellite use is a tricky business, however, and the intelligence experts figure that the Soviets won't have mastered this before the 1990s.

The various reports and estimates, which accumulate with virtually every top-secret satellite photograph and analysis of it, all demonstrate that the Buck Rogers "ray gun" won't wait for Dr. Huer to come along in the 25th century.

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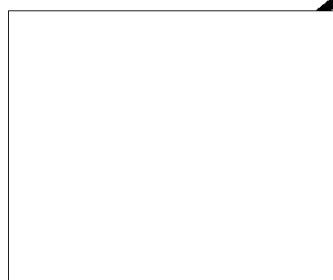
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As Requested	For Correction	Prepare Reply
Circulate	For Your Information	See Me
Comment	Investigate	Signature
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REMARKS

A response to the ad hoc request from the DCI via NIO/USSR and NIO/S&T.

Copy of the telephone message on what was wanted is attached for your information.



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OPTIONAL FORM 41 (Rev. 7-76)
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 FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.206



30 AUG 1986

30 August 1985

Dr. Nall,

Fritz Ermarth called with the following action for you:

He met with the DCI this morning and was asked for an update on Soviet SDI technology programs -- what we have learned lately -- and cables or summaries of cables where Soviet scientists have admitted that they are really working on some of these technologies.

He didn't know how soon the DCI wanted this information, but he told Mr. Casey that he would pass the request on to you. Fritz is off until Wednesday morning.

Susan

~~SECRET~~

04 SEP 1985

Memorandum for: NIO/Science and Technology

From : Chief/Directed Energy Branch/DSD/OSWR

Subject : "Soviet SDI Technology Programs" (U)

Attached is a potpourri of cables and reports that are in response to the DCI's request to Fritz Ermarth for (i) updates on the Soviet "SDI technology programs" (sic) and (ii) Soviet admissions of their work on these technologies. 25X1

These materials were collected through the good graces of OSWR analysts 25X1

Att: a/s

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Army giveth...

and then taketh away.

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23 AUG 1986

Soviets acknowledge space weapons research in new 'Star Wars' booklet

By Bill Gertz
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The Soviet Union has acknowledged for the first time that it is engaged in military space research but denies its military efforts are geared toward developing "space strike weapons."

The Soviets revealed existence of their space weapons program in a new booklet issued last week called "Star Wars: Delusions and Dangers," a polemic against the Reagan administration's Strategic Defense Initiative. A copy of the report was obtained by The Washington Times.

The 56-page booklet was published in Moscow by the Military Publishing House and is being distributed by the Information Department of the Soviet Embassy in Washington.

Compared with other Soviet propaganda releases, "Star Wars" appears more sophisticated and contains color maps and drawings of U.S. military systems, including a drawing of a proposed U.S. mobile intercontinental ballistic missile called the Midgetman.

It also shows the location of U.S. anti-

satellite warfare bases in the United States where F-15 aircraft capable of firing anti-satellite missiles are stationed. The Reagan administration said Tuesday it would conduct three tests of an airborne anti-satellite interceptor this year.

After criticizing U.S. space defense research as part of a "strategy directed to preparing the stage for nuclear war,"

beams and lasers capable of attacking objects in space.

But a draft CIA report on Soviet space weapons research circulated on Capitol Hill last March states that "hostile Soviet reactions" to SDI and "lobbying by high-level Soviet scientists" should be viewed in light of the fact that the Soviets are engaged in extensive space weapons

"Despite its shrill protests against President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative [known as 'Star Wars'], the Soviet Union has been developing its own 'Star Wars' space weapons since 1964 ..."

the Soviet booklet states that "certainly space research is also being done in the Soviet Union, and in the military field, too."

It adds that the Soviets are not developing any "space strike weapons," the Soviet phrase for space- and ground-based satellite interceptors, particle

research.

"The Soviet Union has not admitted to its own long-standing counterpart [space] research, and the most vocal Soviet scientists have themselves been heavily involved in that weapons research," the CIA report on "Soviet Directed Energy Weapons" states.

The CIA report states that a Rand Corp. study on Soviet space weapons found Soviet research on exotic particle beam weapons "appears singularly applicable to the task of propagating particle beams in space."

"The Soviets already have a ground-based laser capable of damaging some U.S. satellites," the CIA report states.

By the 1990s, the CIA estimates that the Soviets "may deploy operational space-based laser systems for anti-satellite purposes," the report states.

The CIA believes the United States is "on the threshold of an alternative Soviet line of attack — to compete with the U.S. in strategic defense."

In Geneva Tuesday the International Defense Journal published an article which asserted that the Soviet Union has been working on its own "star wars" program for two decades despite its opposition to U.S. plans to develop a space-based missile defense shield.

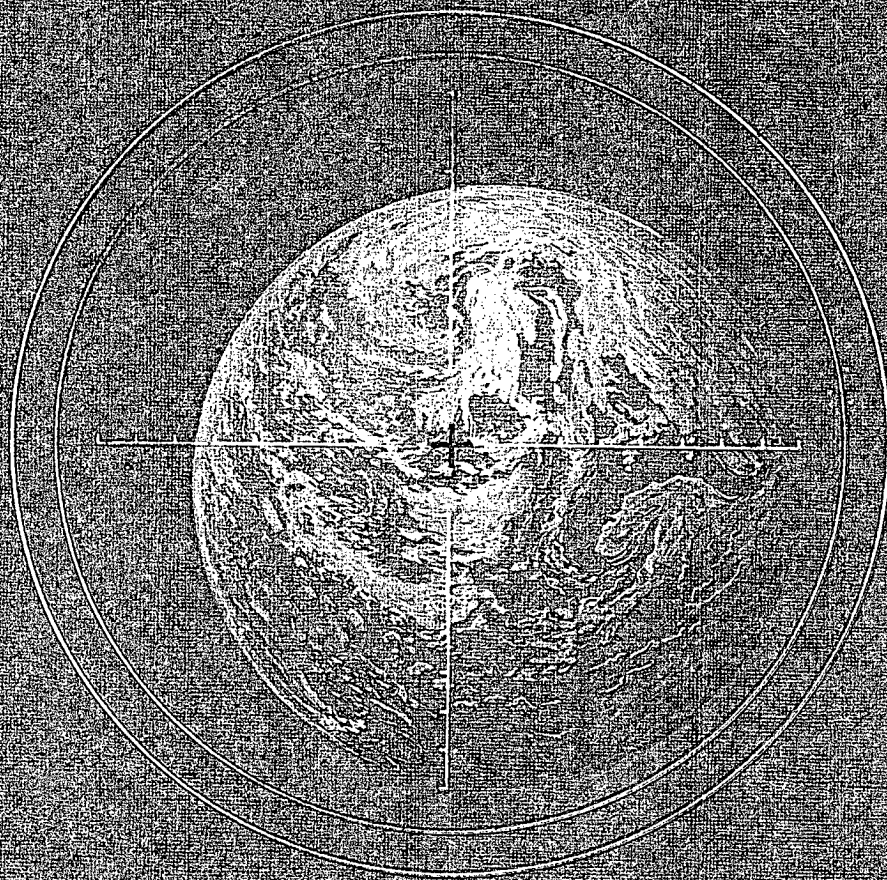
"Despite its shrill protests against President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative [popularly known as 'star wars'], the Soviet Union has been developing its own 'star wars' space weapons since 1964," said the article which was based on information from Soviet bloc sources.

Among the space weapons being developed by the Soviets are new anti-ballistic missiles known as the SH-04 and SH-08.

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«ЗВЕЗДНЫЕ ВОЙНЫ»

УЧЕБНИК ДЛЯ ДЕТЕЙ



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There are no objective obstacles to reaching an agreement on halting and outlawing the development of space strike weapons, including research. All the hindrances are artificially engineered in the form of "arguments" and "objections". This includes the long since discredited "Soviet military threat" myth that is being spread by Washington, and the latter's unwarranted references to the "higher" rate at which the Soviet Union is allegedly using outer space in military ways. But all these arguments are groundless and were invented in haste, post date. When the US Administration announced its "Star Wars" program it made no mention of the USSR being "ahead". The idea was to ascend to the "heavens" and conduct a policy of strength.

Certainly, space research is also being done in the Soviet Union, and in the military field too. But none of it is aimed at developing space strike weapons or "nation-wide" ABM space systems. It concerns improvement of space-based early warning, surveillance, communication, and navigation systems. The USSR is not developing any space strike weapons. And it has no intention of building a "nation-wide" missile defense system. The claim that the same sort of work as in America is being conducted in the Soviet Union, is nothing but a lie. The USSR abides rigidly by the provisions of the permanent ABM Treaty signed in 1972.



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